

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

XMB-04 /118 W

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R 180840Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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INFO US MISSION GENEVA 267

USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 6280

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJ: KOREAN PRODUCT STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

REF: STATE 182572

SUMMARY: CURRENT KOREAN STANDARDS SYSTEM DEVELOPED LARGELY FOR PURPOSES OF UPGRADING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND FOR QUALITY CONTROL OF EXPORTS. SUCH STANDARDS AS EXIST BORROW HEAVILY FROM FOREIGN STANDARDS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF JAPAN AND U.S., PLUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. CURRENT SYSTEM POSES FEW, IF ANY, PROBLEMS FOR IMPORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON KOREAN STANDARDS SYSTEM FURNISHED IN RESPONSE REFTEL.

2. FOR PURPOSES THIS RESPONSE EMBASSY HAS GROUPED KOREAN ADMINISTRATION OF STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS INTO TWO BROAD CATEGORIES: (1) SYSTEM COORDINATED BY INDUSTRIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ADVANCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (IAA), A SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AGENCY UNDER MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MCI); AND (2) SOME 35 LAWS PERTAINING TO STANDARDS AND SAFETY ADMINISTERED BY SIX OTHER MINISTRIES. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF IAA

SYSTEM IS OUTLINED IN TWO REPORTS BY GENERAL ELECTRIC-TEMPO CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES ENTITLED: INTERIM REPORT ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THENATIONAL STANDARDS SYSTEM OF KOREA (DATED JAN. 31, 1975) AND ORGANIZATIONAL SURVEYS (DATED JUNE 1975). THESE REPORTS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN EA/CCD, AID/W, WH IS CONSIDERING \$5 MILLION LOAN FOR INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS PROJECT. REPORT ALSO MAKES GENERAL REFERENCE TO OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS NOT ENCOMPASSED IN IAA SYSTEM.

3. KOREAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS (BS), WHICH DATES BACK TO 1961, PLAYS LEADING ROLE IN IAA SYSTEM. BS, WHICH WAS INCORPORZTED INTO NEWLY CREATED IAA IN 1973, IS CHARGED WITH PREPARATION AND PROMULGATION OF QUOTE KOREAN STANDARDS END QUOTE UNDER INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION LAW, THESE KOREAN STANDARDS ARE VOLUNTARY WHEN INTRODUCED BUT CAN BE MADE MANDATORY BY DECLARATION OF IAA. CURRENT TOTAL OF KOREAN STANDARDS IS 4,106 BROKEN DOWN BY MAJOR PRODUCT CATEGORIES AS FOLLOWS:

PRODUCT CAT.	STANDARDS
BASIC	190
MECHANICAL	1,083
ELECTRICAL	651
METAL	457
MINING	140
CIVIL ENG. & CONSTRUCTION	319
HOUSEHOLD NECESSITIES	94
FOODS	74
TEXTILE	228
CERAMICS	168
CHEMICALS	691
MED. INSTRUMENTS	11
TOTAL	4,106

4. BS IS MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO) AND INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (IEC) BUT APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT, HOWEVER, ACCORDING BS, APPROXIMATELY 80 UNCLASSIFIED

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PERCENT OF ABOVE STANDARDS LARGELY CONFORM WITH STANDARDS RECOMMENDED BY ISO AND IEC. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT AS PRACTICAL MATTER BS DRAWS EXTENSIVELY ON JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS (JIS) IN PREPARING KOREAN STANDARDS, WITH MANY BEING DIRECT TRANSLATIONS OF JIS. HOWEVER, JIS APPARENTLY CONFORM TO SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE WITH ISO AND IEC-RECOMMENDED STANDARDS. KOREA IS ALSO MEMBER OF PACIFIC AREA STANDARDS COMMISSION (PASC) AND THERE IS SOME MINIMAL USE OF PASC STANDARDS AS GUIDE.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES PROVIDE THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION OF PRODUCERS, DEALERS OR CONSUMERS MAY REQUEST ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD. APPLICATION IF REVIEWED

BY BS WITH ADVICE OF COUNCIL FOR INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION, A THREE-MEMBER ADVISORY BODY TO IAA ADMINISTRATOR. COUNCIL FUNCTIONS WITH ASSISTANCE OF 300 COMMISSIONERS REPRESENTING INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA, PRODUCERS CONSUMERS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, DIVIDED INTO 24 DIVISIONAL COMMITTEES. DIVISIONAL COMMITTEES, IN TURN SUPPORTED BY 2,250 MEMBERS OF 229 TECHNICAL COMMITTEES. THIS PROCEDURE INTENDED TO PROVIDE FOR REVIEW AND COMMENTS BY INTERESTED PARTIES. THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OR PUBLIC HEARINGS DURING THIS PROCESS AND NO SPECIFIC TIME LIMITS ARE DESIGNATED. FINAL DRAFT IS REVIEWED BY IAA. STANDARD THEN ANNOUNCED IN NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE. ONCE PUBLISHED, STANDARD IS EFFECTIVE FOR 3 YEARS BEFORE BEING SUBJECTED TO AUTOQIC REVIEWXM WHILE OFFICIAL PROCEDURES SUGGEST MAJOR ROLE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS GOVERNMENT NORMALLY TAKES LEAD IN INITIATING PROCESS.

6. IAA HAS AUTHORITY DECLARE EXISTING VOLUNTARY STANDARDS MANDATORY AFTER SIMILAR CONSULTATION PROCEDURE. ACCORDING BS, THERE ARE CURRENTLY 29 PRODUCTS FOR WHICH STANDARDS NOW MANDATORY AS FOLLOWS:

CATEGORY	NO. OF PRODUCTS
ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS	8
MECHANICAL PRODUCTS	13
METAL PRODCUTS	3
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	5
UNCLASSIFIED	

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EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT SOME OF QUOTE VOLUNTARY END QUOTE STANDARDS MAY BE VIRTUALLY MANDATORY BY REASON OF COMMON PRACTICE, REGUATIONS ISSUED BY OTHER BODIES, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES, ETC.

7. THESE STANDARDS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO UPGRADE QUALITY AND STANDARDIZATION OF KOREAN PRODUCTION. AS PRACTICAL MATTER THEY ARE NOT APPLIED TO IMPORTS AT PRESENT TIME. STANDARDS GENERALLY CONCENTRATED IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. UNDER HIGHLY RESTRICTIVE KOEAN IMPORT REGIME, IMPORTS ARE NOT NORMALLY AUTHORIZED WHEN KOREAN DOMESTIC PRODUCTION CAN MEET DEMAND. THUS, THERE ARE NO IMPORTS, FOR EXAMPLE, OF 29 PRODUCTS FOR WHICH THERE ARE OFFICIAL MANDATORY STANDARDS. WHILE SOME VOLUNTARY STANDARDS MAY, IN PRACTICE, BE VIRTUALLY MANDATORY, IMPORTS, AT LEAST FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ARE GENERALLY ASSUMED TO MEET STANDARDS AT LEAST AS RIGOROUS AS KOREAN STANDARDS, HENCE, QUESTION OF ACCEPTING CERTIFICATION FROM FOREIGN QUALITY ASSURANCE BODIES HAS NEVER BEEN ADDRESSED. ERICSON

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INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

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L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

XMB-04 /118 W

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R 180840Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2147

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 268

USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS FINAL SECTION OF 2 SEOUL 6280

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJ: KOREAN PRODUCT STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

8. NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND BUREAU OF EXTENSION SERVICES, BOTH OF WHICH ARE COMPONENTS OF IAA, AND FINE INSTRUMENTS CENTER, A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE, PLAY PRINCIPAL ROLE IN TESTING AND CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR THESE STANDARDS. THERE ARE FOUR PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS INSPECTION LABORATORIES OPERATING UNDER DIRECTION CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. FOR CERTAIN DESIGNATED COMMODITIES, APPROVED PRODUCTS ARE AUTHORIZED USE OF KS MARKING AS STAMP OF GOOD QUALITY. THIS AGAIN USED ONLY FOR DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED ITEMS AND IS NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR IMPORTED ITEMS.

9. TWO OTHER BUREAUS OF IAA, BUREAU OF QUALITY CONTROL (BQC) AND BUREAU OF INSPECTION (BI) ALSO DEVELOP STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIC PURPOSES, BQC'S PRINCIPAL ROLE INVOLVES QUALITY CONTROL FOR EXPORTS, BUT IT ALSO DEVELOPS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ADMINISTERS LIMITED NUMBER OF QUALITY CONTROL STANDARDS FOR DOMESTIC MARKETING. THERE ARE BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE TESTING AND INSPECTION FACILITIES FOR NUMBER OF INDUSTRIES ACTING AS DESIGNATED AGENCIES FOR TESTING UNDER EXPORT INSPECTION ACT. BI FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON SAFETY, INCLUDING ELECTRICAL

APPLIANCES, HIGH PRESSURE GAS EQUIPMENT, TOYS, SURGICAL PRODUCTS, METALS, ETC. EMBASSY WAS UNABLE TO COMPLETE INQUIRIES INTO ACTIVITIES THESE TWO BUREAUS IN TIME FOR THIS REPORT, BUT WILL FORWARD BRIEF SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT, SHORTLY.

10. IN ADDITION TO IAA STANDARDS SYSTEM, THERE ARE SOME 35 LAWS CONCERNING STANDARDS AND SAFETY MATTERS ADMINISTERED BY SIX OTHER MINISTRIES, INCLUDING MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION (SEE PAGES 43, 44, AND 45 OF FIRST GE TEMPO REPORT CITED ABOVE FOR LIST OF LAWS). REGULATIONS ISSUED PURSUANT TO FOOD SANITARY CONTROL LAW ADMINISTERED BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (MHSA), FOR EXAMPLE, DESCRIBE PROPERTIES AND QUALITIES OF SOME 350-400 FOODS AND CHEMICAL ELEMENTS USED IN FOOD PREPARATION. MHSA SOURCES STATED THAT U.S. AND JAPANESE REFERENCE MATERIALS WERE USED EXTENSIVELY IN DRAWING UP THESE SPECIFICATIONS. MHSA WITH SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTE MAKES SPOT INSPECTIONS AND TESTS. MHSA ALSO ADMINISTERS PHARMACEUTICAL LAW. ACCORDING MHSA SOURCE ALL IMPORTS OF DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMMODITIES REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL OF MHSA AND MUST BE TESTED BEFORE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE. DOMESTIC PRODUCTION SUBJECTED SIMILAR TESTING. PRODUCTS MEETING STANDARDS OF ANY OF ABOUT TEN DEVELOPED COUNTRY EXPORTING NATIONS, INCLUDING U.S., ARE NORMALLY CONSIDERED ADEQUATE WITHOUT FURTHER REFERENCE TO KOREAN STANDARDS. MHSA MAY TEST TO ASSURE THAT PRODUCT DOES CONFORM TO STANDARDS SET OUT IN DOCUMENTATION. KOREAN PHARMACOPOEIA WAS DRAWN UP ON BASIS COMPARABLE MATERIALS IN U.S., JAPAN AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

11. DISCUSSIONS WITH DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS' ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATIONS LABORATORY (ECC) REVEALED SIMILAR PATTERN FOLLOWED IN STANDARDS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. LABORATORY HAS SOME 800 STANDARDS FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT DEVELOPED UNCLASSIFIED

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LARGELY WITH REFERENCE TO RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND INTENDED PRIMARILY AS STANDARDS FOR DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED EQUIPMENT FOR PURCHASE BY MOC. STANDARDS DRAWN UP FOR IMPORTS ARE GENERALLY QUITE LIMITED AND APPEAR TO BE MORE IN THE NATURE OF SPECIFICATION FOR PARTICULAR EQUIPMENT DESIRED. IMPORTS FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PRINCIPALLY MOC, ARE TESTED BY ECL, BUT AGAIN GENERALLY TO ASSURE CONFORMANCE TO STANDARDS SPECIFIED IN DOCUMENTATION. WHILE WE HAVE NOT MADE SPECIFIC INQUIRIES INTO ADMINISTRATION OF OTHER LAWS IN THIS AREA, IT IS EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THEIR ADMINISTRATION IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF EXAMPLES DESCRIBED ABOVE.

12. CONCLUSIONS: BOTH WITH RESPECT TO STANDARDS DEVELOPED UNDER IAA SYSTEM AND STANDARDS DEVELOPED PURSUANT VARIOUS

LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY OTHER MINISTRIES, KOREA HAS RELIED HEAVILY ON FOREIGN STANDARDS FOR DEVELOPING SUCH STANDARDS AS IT CURRENTLY MAINTAINS. AUTHORITY FOR ISSUING STANDARDS IN ALL CASES RESTS WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THESE STANDARDS RARELY CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS FOR IMPORTS, AT LEAST AS FAR AS IMPORTS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED. TESTING OF IMPORTED PRODUCTS, WHERE IT OCCURS AT ALL, IS GENERALLY CONFINED TO ASSURING THAT PRODUCT CONFORMS TO STANDARDS SPECIFIED IN DOCUMENTATION. WHILE CERTIFICATIONS OF QUALITY ASSURANCE BODIES IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES NOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED, IN PRACTICE, THEY APPEAR TO CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT. KOREA'S PRINCIPAL EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING STANDARDS TO THIS POINT HAVE FOCUSED ON UPGRADING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND QUALITY CONTROL FOR EXPORTS. IN LATTER CONNECTION, KOREA WOULD CLEARLY STAND TO GAIN FROM HARMONIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE CERTIFICATION. (IN AT LEAST ONE CASE, KOREA HAS HAD SOME PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH VARIOUS FOREIGN QUALITY ASSURANCE BODIES, INCLUDING UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY IN U.S., IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF FINE INSTRUMENT CENTER'S CERTIFICATION FOR AT LEAST SOME OF THE TESTING AND CONTROL PROCEDURES REQUIRED FOR ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS.) PROVIDED PROBLEM OF OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES CAN BE RESOLVED, KOREA WOULD HAVE LITTLE PROBLEM IN DECREEEING UNIFORM STANDARDS THROUGHOUT NATION.

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## Message Attributes

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